



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/993,732 | 11/21/2001 | William Robert Hanson | PALM-3690 | 9445 |

7590 01/17/2003
WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP
Third Floor
Two North Market Street
San Jose, CA 95113

EXAMINER

CHANG, YEAN HSI

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

2835

DATE MAILED: 01/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/993,732

Applicant(s)

HANSON ET AL.

Examiner

Yean-Hsi Chang

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Something is missing in line 7 of the abstract.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-2, 6, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cargin, Jr. et al. (US 6,023,147)

Cargin teaches an electronic device comprising:

- A housing (11 and 12, fig. 8) having an opening (65, fig. 8) (claim 1)
- A bus (not shown, see col. 16, lines 45-53) (claim 1)
- A processor (on 210, fig. 9) disposed within said housing (claim 1)
- A connector (123, fig. 8) disposed within said opening (claim 1)

- A cover (118, fig. 7) for said opening, being removably coupled to said housing, and adapted to perform a second function (radio 127, fig. 8) (claims 1-2)
- Wherein said cover comprises an antenna (117, fig. 7) (claim 6)
- Wherein said cover comprises an external connector (119, fig. 8) (claim 10)
- Wherein said electronic device (115, fig. 7) is a wireless portable device (with antenna 117, fig. 7) (claim 12)

4. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cargin, Jr. et al.

Cargin teaches an electronic device comprising:

- A housing (12, fig. 2) having an opening (63, fig. 2)
- A bus (not shown, see col. 16, lines 45-53)
- A processor (on 89, fig. 3) disposed within said housing
- A connector (23, fig. 2) disposed within said opening
- A cover (11, fig. 2) for said opening, being removably coupled to said housing, and adapted to perform a second function (display 13, fig. 2)
- Wherein said cover comprises a display (13, fig. 2)

5. Claims 13-14, 18 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cargin, Jr. et al.

Cargin teaches a device (top portion of fig. 8, not numbered) comprising:

- Circuitry (129, fig. 8) for coupling said device to an electronic device (11 and 12, lower portion of fig. 8) (claim 13)
- Circuitry (127, fig. 10) for performing a function synergistically with a function performed by said electronic device (wireless communication function as shown in left portion of fig. 9) (claim 13)
- Wherein said device is sized and shaped to serve as a cover (see figs. 7 and 8) for an opening (65, fig. 8) in a housing (12, fig. 8) of said electronic device (claim 13)
- Wherein said device is removably coupled to said housing (claim 14)
- Wherein said device comprises an antenna (117, fig. 8) (claim 18)
- Wherein said device comprises an external connectors (119, fig. 8) for expanded functionality (claim 23)

6. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cargin Jr. et al.

Cargin teaches a device (11, fig. 2) comprising:

- Circuitry (105, fig. 3) for coupling said device to an electronic device (12, fig. 2)
- Circuitry (43 fig. 2) for performing a function synergistically with a function performed by said electronic device (display function 13, fig. 2)
- Wherein said device is sized and shaped to serve as a cover (11, fig. 2) for an opening (63, fig. 2) in a housing (12, fig. 2) of said electronic device

- Wherein said device comprises a display (13, fig. 2)

7. Claims 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cargin, Jr. et al.

Cargin teaches a portable electronic device comprising:

- A housing (11 and 12, fig. 8) having an opening (65, fig. 8) (claim 25)
- A radio transceiver (127, fig. 8) disposed within said opening, and comprising external connectors (not numbered, fig. 9) for coupling said transceiver to an antenna (117, fig. 9) (claims 25 and 26)
- A cover (132, fig. 10) for said opening, removably coupled to said housing for protecting said transceiver (see fig. 10) (claim 25)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 3 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cargin, Jr. et al. in view of Ross et al. (US 5,859,628).

Cargin discloses the claimed invention except the cover being pivotably coupled to the housing. However, Ross teaches an electronic device (104, fig. 3) comprising a housing (302, fig. 3) having an opening (304, fig. 3), and a cover (102, fig. 5) being removably and pivotally coupled to said housing. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Cargin with the cover taught by Ross so that the cover could be installed and removed from the housing simply by tilting the cover without tightening and loosening screws.

10. Claims 4-5, 7, 16-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cargin Jr. et al. in view of Ditzik (US 5,983,073).

Cargin discloses the claimed invention except the cover being slidably and hingeably coupled to the housing, and comprising a speaker. However, Ditzik teaches an electronic device (not numbered, fig. 1) comprising a housing (9 and 16, fig. 1) and a cover (2, fig. 1) including a speaker (30, fig. 1), and being slidably and hingeably coupled to said housing. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Cargin with the cover taught by Ditzik so that the cover could have a speaker for audio output, and could be installed and removed from the housing simply by sliding the cover without tightening and loosening screws, and could be opened simply by rotating.

11. Claims 8-9 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cargin et al. in view of Ikenouchi et al. (US 5,835,863).

Cargin discloses the claimed invention except the cover illuminating or vibrating for alerting a user. However, Ikenouchi teaches an illuminating alerting device (9, fig. 1; also see col. 2, lines 22-26) and a vibrating alerting device (10, fig. 1; also see col. 2, lines 33-35) for alerting a user. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the cover of the device of Cargin with the alerting devices taught by Ikenouchi for the purpose of alerting the user when audible signal is not suitable at certain locations.

12. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cargin et al. in view of Luen et al. (US 6,430,644 B1).

Cargin discloses the claimed invention except the device is coupled to an expansion card disclosed within the electronic device. However, Luen teaches a device (44, fig. 1) coupled to an expansion card (30, fig. 1) disposed within an electronic device (10, fig. 1). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Cargin with the device taught by Luen so that the expansion card could be disposed within the housing of the electronic device for security purposes.

13. Claims 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cargin et al. in view of Atkinson (US 2001/0039571 A1).

Cargin discloses the claimed invention except specifying the type of protocol of the transceiver. However, Atkinson teaches industry standards of local transmission

protocols, such as: Blue Tooth and IEEE 802.11x (see Par. 0105, page 10). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select one of the standard protocols for the transceiver for the purpose of appropriate communication.

Correspondence

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yean-Hsi Chang whose telephone number is (703) 306-5798. The examiner can normally be reached on 07:30-16:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on (703) 308-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3431 for regular communications and for After Final communications. There are RightFAX numbers and provide the fax sender with an auto-reply fax verifying receipt by the USPTO: Before-Final (703-872-9318) and After-Final (703-872-9319).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 305-8558.

Application/Control Number: 09/993,732

Page 9


Art Unit: 2835

Yean-Hsi Chang

Patent Examiner

Art Unit: 2835

January 9, 2003


DARREN SCHUBERG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800